

Somersworth, NH
March 21, 2011

The meeting was called to order by His Honor, the Mayor, and upon roll call the following members were present: Pepin, Watman, Spainhower, Messier, Tapscott, Witham, Jarvis and Sprague. Councilor McCallion was absent.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING.

Councilor Witham made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2011 meeting. After being seconded by Councilor Pepin, the minutes were approved as written. Councilor Tapscott abstained from the vote.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

There were no comments by visitors.

MAYOR'S REPORT.

Mayor Soldati advised that the City's proposed budget is available on-line or at the City Clerk's office.

The County budget is due for approval on Saturday, March 26, 2011 at 9:00 am in the Superior Court Building on County Farm Road, Courtroom #1. The County budget does have an impact on the local budget. If you want to comment on the County budget, or listen to the discussion, the Mayor said that you can do so on March 26 at 9:00 am.

He reported that the Sustainability Committee had its first meeting last Thursday on March 17th. At that meeting, Liz Wilson was approved as the chair, Jennifer Soldati as the secretary. The meetings will, by and large, be on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm in City Council Chambers. The meetings are not only opened to the public, but the Committee also invites the public to participate with issues that are discussed. They will be adopting more formalized procedures over the course of the next few meetings. At the next meeting on April 21st, they will, among other things, be looking to develop a mission statement.

He had the opportunity and the pleasure of attending the Somersworth High School championship basketball tournament, and the Somersworth High School came out as champions of Division 3 boys' basketball. He also attended, the following day when the Somersworth boys' hockey team, undefeated, went on to capture the State championship in boys' division 3 hockey. He has been in communication with the High School Principal and they are hoping to do some sort of celebration. They did have a motorcade through the City after both events which he said was kind of fun. He said that they are to be congratulated and hopefully they will have a celebration. He also hopes to put together a proclamation concerning their championship teams as well as some other accomplishments of our students.

He said it was a proud day for Somersworth and he was very proud to be the Mayor and watch the way our athletes conducted themselves both on court and on the ice, as well as elsewhere.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Councilor Jarvis said that the Finance Committee has not had a meeting since the last Council meeting. They will meet again on Friday, March 25, 2011 at 9:00 am.

PUBLIC WORKS AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Councilor Spainhower said that the Public Works and the Environment Committee has not met since the last Council meeting.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Councilor Watman said that the Public Safety Committee will meet (Tuesday, March 22, 2011,) at 9:00 am in the Executive Conference Room.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Councilor Sprague said that the Economic Development Committee has not met since the last Council meeting.

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Councilor Pepin said that the Recreation Committee has not met since the last Council meeting.

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Councilor Tapscott reported that the Government Operations Committee met on March 8, 2011 at 3:30 pm to discuss proposed changes to Council Rules and Regulations. It was all about changes with Council meetings via electronic participation. They discussed several items in the proposed draft and finally there was a motion to recommend to the Council to not adopt at this time and the motion passed three to nothing.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES, CITY OFFICERS AND CITY MANAGER.

JOINT BUILDING COMMITTEE

Councilor Tapscott reported the following about the progress of the work being done on the new Idlehurst School:

Idlehurst School
Somersworth, NH
17 Mar 2011

ON SITE CURRENT & COMPLETE

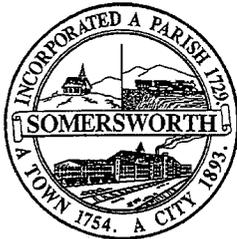
Brick veneer continues at Administrative area
Metal stud and smoke walls complete at Administration
Gypsum sheathing complete at A & B wings
Boiler installations ongoing
Casework installation ongoing at B wing
Ceiling grid 80% complete at B wing
Ceiling grid has begun at A wing
Primer coat ongoing at C wing
Snow/weather management
Walk in coolers installed

ON SITE NEXT TWO WEEKS

Gypsum sheathing at cafeteria soffits
Masonry veneer complete
Boilers expected to be operational the third week of March
Painting ongoing through C wing
Tile floor at kitchen

ONE MONTH OUT

Mechanical, electrical & sprinkler trade rough-in ongoing
Painting ongoing
Casework through A & B wings
Gypsum wall board at Administrative area
Floor preparations at A & B wings



CITY OF SOMERSWORTH
Office of the City Manager

TO: Mayor Lincoln Soldati and City Council Members

FROM: Robert M. Belmore, City Manager

DATE: Friday, March 18, 2011

SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Monday, March 21st, 2011
City Council Agenda

6:00 p.m. City Council and School Board Workshop

6:45 p.m. Public Hearing on Resolution No. 18-11 to Establish a Capital Reserve Fund for the Purpose of Sidewalk Construction, Reconstruction, or Rehabilitation

Unfinished Business (under Section 12 of the Agenda):

- A. **Resolution No. 18-11 To Establish a Capital Reserve Fund for the Purpose of Sidewalk Construction, Reconstruction, or Rehabilitation.** As a reminder, the Finance Committee and Public Works Committee have met and voted to support the establishment of this fund. The City Manager's FY 2011 Budget proposed \$50,000 and next years City Manager Proposed FY 2012 includes \$50,000 as a recommendation for this purpose.

- B. **Discussion Item – Hilltop School Reuse.**

New Business (under Section 13 of the Agenda):

Ordinances:

- A. **Ordinance No. 9-11 Amend Chapter 19, Zoning Ordinance, Section 13, Riparian and Wetland Buffer District Ordinance.** Please see the attached information provided by City Planner Dave Sharples. The Conservation Commission sent this recommended change to the Planning Board. The Board held a Public Hearing and voted to send the recommended change to the City Council. I recommend a Council Public Hearing prior to next regular meeting on April 4th at 6:45 p.m.

Resolutions:

- A. **Resolution No. 19-11 To Authorize the City Manager to Order One Police Cruiser which will be Funded in the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Budget.** I have attached an explanation regarding the timing needed to order Police Cruisers provided to me by Captain Timmons. At this time, this Resolution is on the Public Safety Committee's March 22nd agenda for discussion.

- B. **Resolution No. 20-11 Resolution for the City of Somersworth to Encourage/Participate in Regionalization Efforts.** At the February Goal Setting Workshop, the Mayor and City Council did identify the support of Regionalization Efforts as a new goal moving forward.

Other:

- A. **Vote to Authorize the City Manager to Petition the Commissioner of the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) for the**

Extension of Economic Revitalization Zones within the City of Somersworth. The Council's Economic Development Committee reviewed this extension to Zone #2 and recommends taking this action. An explanation and map from Development Services Director Wheeler are attached.

Note: City Manager Belmore said that this includes 21 parcels and 60 plus acres. The area that they would be expanding to would be commercial use. He reminded everyone that this does not affect city assessment at all. He said it is an overlay of the Economic Revitalization Zone that would need to be approved by DRED. This vote would allow staff and the City Manager to move forward with DRED, including this extension into their community. It would allow individual businesses within these zones, if they are expanding in any way, whether with equipment or new personnel, to be able to tap into a State program where they get some benefits from their taxes that are paid to the State.

City Manager's Items (under Section 9 of the Agenda):

A. Informational Items:

1. **PSNH Community Meeting.** I attended a PSNH Community Outreach meeting on March 15th with Captain Timmons, Fire Chief Fred Butts and Public Works Director Tom Willis. Attached is a handout of their presentation. I draw your attention to slide number 9 on page 5 regarding PSNH's Power Restoration Philosophy and Priorities.
2. **Safe Routes to School Grant Program.** The SAU-City Task Force continues to meet. Attached is a copy of the executive summary regarding a survey conducted as part of their October 2010 'Walk to School' day event.
3. **Forrest Management Plan.** The Public Works Department will be working with a UNH Forestry student as he drafts a plan for Timber Management of City-owned land off Rocky Hill Road for our consideration.
4. **Grants.**
 - **Engineering Services Grant.** Attached is a draft application for \$10,000 of engineering services for a Subsurface Infrastructure Evaluation project in the Downtown Area as part of DuBois & King 50 year anniversary celebration program.
 - **Highway Safety Grant.** The Police Department recently received funding for 5 days of extra patrol through the State Operation Safe Commute Program: one Officer for 3-hours in the morning and afternoon. (Approx. \$1,875.00)
 - **National Law Enforcement Grant Program.** This grant, sponsored through Target, has been applied for by the Police

Department. The \$5,000 grant would be put towards a computer server (virtual server) that would combine the three current servers that support the station.

- **Community Technical Assistance Program.** The Planning Board has authorized the City Planner to apply for an \$8,330 project grant to develop a Conservation Subdivision ordinance with the assistance of a consultant at no funding cost to the City. This will address other newly established goals in the City Master Plan.

Note: the City Manager complimented staff on looking for these grants.

B. Attachments:

1. Attorney Certification (1).
2. Department Head Monthly Reports.
3. JLMC/Safety Committee March 15th, 2011 draft minutes.

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS.

CEMETERY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- David Eastman, Term of Expire 02/16.
- Frank Kennedy, Term to Expire 04/15.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

- Frank Richardson, Term to Expire 04/14.
- Imants Millers, Term to Expire 04/14.
- Elizabeth Wilson, Term to Expire 04/14.

PLANNING BOARD

- Erwin Grant, Term to Expire 04/14.
- Ron LeHoullier, Term to Expire 04/14.

The Mayor said that the reappointments above will lay on the table for action at the next Council meeting. Virtually all of the individuals listed above are up for reappointment; they are already serving in the various capacities and have requested reappointment. (Letters) of interest and any resumes submitted will be available to the Councilors in their packets for the next meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

RESOLUTION NO. 18-11 TO ESTABLISH A CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION, OR REHABILITATION.

Councilor Jarvis reiterated what the City Manager previously said that in the FY 2011 budget, there is an appropriation of \$50,000 which is part of the \$150,000 listed for road resurfacing for the funding of the sidewalk maintenance. This is specifically just to establish that.

Councilor Witham said that this surfaced a few years ago, the need to do something with the city sidewalks. This is an important step in that process. They now have the physical plan and now are trying to tackle a financial plan to deal with that. He supports this.

DISCUSSION ITEM-HILLTOP SCHOOL REUSE

Councilor Pepin said that they had quite a few residents who stayed after the last meeting. He would like to thank Councilors Witham and Spainhower for spending some time with the public and speaking to them... He know that they are in his ward, but the information that (the Councilors) gave was very useful and he wants to thank them publicly.

NEW BUSINESS.

ORDINANCE NO. 9-11 AMEND CHAPTER 19, ZONING ORDINANCE, SECTION 13, RIPARIAN AND WETLAND BUFFER DISTRICT ORDINANCE.

Somersworth, NH
March 21, 2011

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the ordinances of the City of Somersworth, as amended, be further amended as follows:

Amend Chapter 19, Zoning Ordinance, Section 13, Riparian and Wetland Buffer District Ordinance, by deleting 19.13.9.A.7. in its entirety and replacing with the following:

- 19.13.9.A.7. No mechanized logging, no clear cutting of trees, no removal of rocks or stumps, and no cutting or removal of vegetation or natural ground cover below three (3) feet in height shall be permitted with the exception of forest management that is not associated with shoreland development or land conversion, and is conducted in compliance with RSA 227-J:9 and a Notification of Forest Management or Timber Harvest Activities having Minimum Wetlands Impact Form (or its subsequent equivalent if there is a

name change) has been submitted to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

This ordinance shall take effect upon its passage.

Introduced by Councilor

David Witham
By Request

Approved:

City Attorney

Ordinance No. 9-11 will lay on the table until the next meeting. There will be a Public Hearing on this ordinance on April 4, 2011 at 6:45 pm.

RESOLUTION NO. 19-11 TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO ORDER ONE POLICE CRUISER WHICH WILL BE FUNDED IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012 BUDGET.

Somersworth, NH
March 21, 2011

WHEREAS the City of Somersworth's Capital Improvement Plan proposes a replacement schedule for police cruisers to maintain fleet integrity and reduce maintenance costs, and

WHEREAS the Somersworth City Council established a goal by consensus at their February 19, 2011 goal setting session whereby they may review and approve a priority list of CIP (capital improvement plan) items earlier than the actual FY budget approval process is complete in order to allow for timely ordering,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Manager is authorized to order one new police cruiser which will be funded through an appropriation in the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 budget, said purchase with necessary patrol set-up would not exceed \$32,000.

Introduced by Councilor

David A. Witham

Approved:

City Attorney

Resolution No. 19-11 will lay on the table until the next meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 20-11 RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH TO ENCOURAGE/PARTICIPATE IN REGIONALIZATION EFFORTS.

Somersworth, NH
March 21, 2011

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth, Strafford County, the State of New Hampshire, and the nation are confronted with major economic challenges; and

WHEREAS, the solution to these economic challenges is in strengthening our local and regional economies; and

WHEREAS, there are common interests and services shared by all communities and being delivered within Strafford County; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that sharing resources and services with neighboring communities can provide substantial savings to individual communities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth could realize substantial savings and reduce its budget thereby lessening the burden on local taxpayers through regionalization of services and procurement without diminishing the quality of such services; and

WHEREAS, the County of Strafford, through its Board of Commissioners is willing to host meetings to provide leadership, organization, funding resources, and facilitation of this effort:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City of Somersworth explore and participate in regionalization efforts with communities throughout Strafford County in an effort to realize cost savings opportunities for the City of Somersworth and its taxpayers.

Introduced by

Lincoln T. Soldati, Mayor
Councilor Dale Sprague
City of Somersworth

Approved:

City Attorney

Resolution No. 20-11 will lay on the table until the next meeting.

VOTE TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO PETITION THE COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (DRED) FOR THE EXTENSION OF ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION ZONES WITHIN THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH.

Councilor Watman moved that the Council authorize the City Manager to petition the Commissioner of the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) for the extension of Economic Revitalization Zone 2, southerly to the 182 Route 108 property.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott.

Councilor Sprague said that all this really does is to expand the zone in the ERZ (Economic Revitalization Zone) 2. From Blackwater Road, it will expand it down to almost where the National Guard is on both sides. This allows the businesses to get a relief on the BPT (Business Profit Tax) and the BET (Business Enterprise Tax). They will still pay, but instead of paying the BPT or BET, it will be toward hiring new employees, capital improvements, or purchasing equipment for the companies. It is a win/win for them. It helps include the project that is at the nursery, (Landscape Clinic), it will allow businesses to come in and take advantage of that. He would like to see this expand even more into the Willand Drive parcels. It doesn't hurt the City, except the BPT or BET money that is paid to the State isn't forwarded back to us as revenue, but our City will hopefully be taking full advantage and help local employees. He hopes the Council will fully support this. It is kind of a no-brainer.

Councilor Spainhower said he also likes the idea of going all the way down to the Dover line. Is there a reason we are not going all the way down there to encourage growth?

City Manager Belmore has discussed this with Craig Wheeler, the Economic Development Director, and they will be looking to move forward again with more expansions, Willand Drive and down to the City line as well as maybe the downtown area.

Councilor Messier asked if, that being said, would it not be advisable to allow the City Manager to petition for all of that now or at any other point.

Councilor Watman would be willing to accept a friendly amendment that states that the City Manager is authorized to apply for the extension of the zones within the City of Somersworth.

Mayor Soldati asked that the friendly amendment be repeated.

Councilor Watman stated the resulting motion: The City Council would authorize the City Manager to Petition the Commissioner of the Department of Resources and Economic Development for the extension of Economic Revitalization Zones within the City of Somersworth.

Councilor Sprague said that DRED obviously has to okay this. He asked if we start to expand this too rapidly to existing businesses that will affect revenues to the State, is there any chance of this new zone getting shot down because we're expanding it too largely, too quickly.

City Manager Belmore expects that it would be approved. Moving forward, he and Craig would work with the Economic Development Committee of Council to run it by the Committee with regards to how to expand these zones in the future. He thinks they will take it in some segments and can check with DRED to make sure that whether they are going to change the program or look (with) a little more scrutiny as far as approving future zones, but his information is that in a lot of communities, there is no limit. You can almost do your whole community in various stages and place them into ER Zones if it makes sense.

Mayor Soldati said that what we are voting on now does not mandate specific boundaries. It provides the City Manager with the discretion to petition DRED. It gives him that authority without coming back.

Councilor Watman trusts the good sense and judgment of the staff and Economic Development Committee to get what we can get at the appropriate time. It gives them some freedom of action.

The Council voted 8-0 to pass this motion.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

There were no comments by visitors.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS.

Councilor Messier thanked the School Board for the meeting prior to this Council meeting. They have a clearer understanding that they have no idea until the legislature comes to some idea. That is a pretty radical thing happening (in Concord.) They said they were going to create jobs, he doesn't see that happening.

Good job for the High School basketball and hockey teams. There was that saying about the hockey team: unfunded/undefeated. The question arose: Where does the plaque go? Does it go in the school? The kids did a wonderful job and they have to be commended, but it was unfunded by a section of this community. There are considerable inequities within the funding criteria of high school sports at Somersworth. Some get it all; some have to find it all.

He just wants to say, "Good Job." They won, they made this community proud. Unfunded/undefeated.

He thanked all the departments that go for the grants that they get. Every little bit helps, he said. What they are seeing in the tea leaves from the legislature, they will probably have to rely on a lot more of that.

He asked if this is a new Master Plan. He would like to be filled in on where that stands. Doesn't have to be tonight, he said.

Councilor Spainhower said that Malley Farm compost facility is open today. The hours are weekdays, 7:30 am to 2:30 pm. Weekends 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. It is open for brush and leaves only and there will be a section for hard and soft wood; do not dump anything else.

Councilor Watman said that it was wonderful to see two High School teams, in the face of such adversity, doing so well. It was a wonderful effort and is one of those times you can take such pride in yourself and your community.

He is so saddened to know at the State level that so many reductions are being proposed that effect people who have very little voice in things; the underprivileged, the disabled, the children: easy groups to pick on, but groups who need assistance more than any other ones. He hopes, when we address our own budget, as best we can, that they have a responsibility to those groups.

Councilor Pepin said that several months ago they passed a resolution to put the water/sewer bills out monthly. This is the second highest issue that he gets replies back from the public. They didn't feel that this was necessary. They feel that this is an increase of \$20,000, eight more times that the vehicles will go out and make water readings. There is the inconvenience of writing their check out every month and sending it in to the City and getting to the City, especially during the winter months. These are complaints that he is getting from the elderly people. Even though he didn't support this and didn't vote against it, but it is probably the highest thing since Hilltop School that he has gotten complaints about. He has said that it went through the proper committees but they felt that they weren't allowed to speak on this before it was acted on. Maybe in the near future we could take them into consideration since they are the ones paying the bills and get their input a little bit.

Councilor Tapscott said congrats to the High School boys' basketball and hockey teams. Job well done.

Councilor Witham said that the State budget and its impact on the local level has been alluded to. From the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy studies they received an in-depth analysis of impacts of local aid cuts to municipalities here in the State. He thinks it is important to share with the public some significant struggles that they will

face here in Somersworth as they begin to tackle their municipal budget. It runs side-by-side with the State budget. There is a fair amount of uncertainty with the State budget right now. It isn't a lot of fun because they are looking at a crystal ball which isn't so effective. The Governor's proposed budget, as it stands right now, has a negative impact on the City of Somersworth of slightly over \$2M, which is manifested as cuts to catastrophic aid, building aid, increases in contributions to retirement and reductions in revenue sharing. (It is) the pessimist or maybe it is the realist, who says that might be a *good* number. Depending on what the legislature does, that number could go up. That concerns him greatly. This is going to be a very, very difficult budget season in the face of some of these numbers and he is hoping that their message gets heard in Concord, so that the cut isn't as drastic as it appears to be.

He is pleased that they get the departmental monthly reports, he finds that those are getting better and better all of the time. He requests from the Fire Department that they receive a breakdown of recalls that occur during the month. The number of hours of personnel on those recalls, that would be helpful. He knows the Chief does break down calls; a higher level of detail would be helpful for him as they get into the budget season.

Congrats on a job well done to the basketball and hockey teams. It is refreshing to see Somersworth in the news for all the right reasons and he is appreciative for that.

Congratulations to the Police Department for obtaining another AED, (Automated External Defibrillator,) you see every now and again where a police officer rolls up and is able to use an AED to save a life, that is being in the newspaper for all the right reasons.

Councilor Jarvis also congratulated that teams but did not want to leave out the other teams that struggled this year without having some funding or having some funding cut. She thinks it shows that the young adults in the community are keeping in mind what is important.

Councilor Sprague urges any member of the community who can call someone in the republican caucus; he said they are driving the bus right now. They had republican names on their lawns and decided that that was the change that they wanted. An insider term is called downshifting. He thinks the local citizens of this community will feel it as a property tax increase because what is coming down from Concord will affect you when you open up your tax bill. As bad as it seems right now, he thinks it is going to get even worse. "July first there will be blood on the floor." If you don't think so, just stay tuned.

He will congratulate the boys' basketball and hockey teams. It is really unheard of for two sports in one season to win a championship. He was proud to be in Concord and be asked if that was the community he was from. He was proud to say yes. He knows it takes a lot of hard work. It takes a little bit of luck, too. The coaches, the players, the fans; his hat is off to them. He knows it takes a lot of work. Good job. And the other teams, he appreciates that too.

Mayor Soldati reminded everyone that the next Council meeting is on April 4, 2011 with a budget workshop on March 28th.

He will be out of the country starting on the 27th for 9 days. He is going to China with the Chamber of Commerce trip and he is very much looking forward to that. Mr. Tapscott will take over as acting Mayor.

ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm. (Tapscott/ Witham 2nd .)

Respectfully submitted,



Elise B. Breli, Deputy City Clerk